

*14th Sunday after Pentecost  
August 29, 2021  
Worship Leader: Rev. Lawrence Lee*

**PRELUDE - A TIME FOR REFLECTION**

**THE GATHERING**

**GREETING AND WORSHIP NOTES**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Do good and share what you have, **for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.**

**PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Before God and one another, let us proclaim the mission of our congregation.

**Our mission is to glorify God by being a harbor welcoming all people and a lighthouse guiding all toward the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:**           “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”           # 366

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down,  
fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown.*

*Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art;  
visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
let us all in thee inherit; let us find the promised rest.*

*Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;  
end of faith, as it's beginning, set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, Almighty, to deliver; let us all thy life receive;  
suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.*

*Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.*

*Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;  
let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee:  
changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, author and giver of all good things, plant in our hearts the love of your name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**GLORIA**           “Glory Be to the Father”           # 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

We come before God not as despised sinners, but as beloved children. With the confidence of children of God, let us humbly confess our sin.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer.**

*Silent Confession*

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**

## PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Loving God, fountain of every blessing, open us to your life-giving word, and fill us with your Holy Spirit so that living water may flow through our hearts – a spring of hope for a thirsty world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface

Speak to us, Lord, for your servants are listening. Hear the word of the Lord.

**FIRST READING:** Song of Songs 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Look, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle or a young stag. Look, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

**PSALTER:** Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

**You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.**

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; **you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;**

your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

**daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

**SECOND READING:** Romans 12:1-21

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” No, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Here ends the reading.

Response:

These words are trustworthy and true. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING:** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?” He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.” For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**                    “The Essential Paul: The Ethics of Love”

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**            Affirmation of Faith from Romans 8

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### **RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD**

**HYMN:**                            “Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”    # 750

*Goodness is stronger than evil; love is stronger than hate;  
light is stronger than darkness; life is stronger than death.  
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.  
Victory is ours; victory is ours through God who loves us.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Almighty God, who taught us to pray not only for ourselves but for people everywhere, hear us as we pray for others, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Inspire the whole church with your power, unity, and peace. We pray especially for Trinity Episcopal/Presbyterian Church of Park Rapids, MN – Vacant.

Grant that all who trust you may obey your word, and live together in love.  
Lead all nations in the way of justice and goodwill.

Direct those who govern, including Joe, our president, Christopher, tribal chair of Red Cliff, Tony, our governor, and Gordon, our mayor, that they may rule fairly, maintain order, uphold those in need, and defend oppressed people; that this world may claim your rule and know true peace.

Awaken all people to the danger we have inflicted upon the earth. Implant in each a reverence for all you have made that we may preserve the delicate balance of creation for all coming generations.

Give grace to all who proclaim the gospel through word and sacrament and deeds of mercy, that by their teaching and example they may reveal your love for all people.

Comfort and relieve, O Lord,

all who are in trouble...

sorrow...

poverty...

sickness...

grief...

especially those known to us, whom we name before you: Connie, Tim, Mary Ellen, Del, Barb, Janet, Joyce, Pam and Steve, Ken, John and Libby, Jim and Lola, Shoddy.

Heal them in body, mind, or circumstance, working in them, by your grace, wonders beyond all they may dream or hope.

Bring to our remembrance all those who, having served you on earth, now sing your praises eternally. May their endurance give us courage and their faithfulness give us hope; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

## **OFFERTORY**

### **DOXOLOGY**

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” # 607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;  
praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all mercies, we give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all living things.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your boundless love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

**Give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our redeemer, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE LORD’S PRAYER** Hymnal, p. 35

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING OF THE TRAVELERS**

Today we seek God's blessing upon those among us who travel, entrusting them into the hands of the Lord. We pray that God will give them a prosperous journey and that, as they travel, they will praise God in all God's creatures; that they will experience God's own goodness in the hospitality

they receive, and bring the Good News of Christ to all those they meet; that they will be courteous toward all; that they will greet the poor and afflicted with kindness and know how to comfort and help them.

God has put his angels in charge of us.

**To guard us in all our ways.**

God leads us in right paths for his name's sake.

**God leads us beside still waters; he restores our souls.**

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness:

**For those who keep his covenant and decrees.**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, you kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage; you led the children of Israel through the midst of the sea; and by a star you led the Wise Men to the infant Jesus. Protect and guide those who set out to travel; make their ways safe and their homecomings joyful; and bring us at last to our heavenly home, where you dwell in glory with your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God forever. **Amen.**

May the Lord remain constantly at your side and, in God's mercy, guide your journeys in ways that are pleasing to God. **Amen.**

May the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **THE SENDING**

**CLOSING HYMN:**           “Though I May Speak”           # 693

*Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control;  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship, and are freed.*

### **BLESSING**

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### **CHARGE**

Love one another; serve the Lord; live peaceably with all. **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE**